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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 01/11/2002

LOIS H. WEISBERG, white female, date of birth 05/06/1925, Commissioner of Cultural Affairs, Chicago, Illinois, telephone number (312) 744-8923, was interviewed at the United States Attorney's Office, 219 South Dearborn Chicago, Illinois. Present for the interview was City of Chicago Deputy Corporate Counsel, [REDACTED] and Assistant United States Attorney, [REDACTED]. After being advised of the identity of the interviewing agent and the nature of the interview, WEISBERG provided the following information:

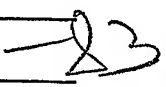
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WEISBERG has been employed with the City of Chicago since 1983. From approximately 1983 to 1989 WEISBERG was the City of Chicago Director of Special Events. WEISBERG was named Commissioner of Cultural Affairs in 1989 and currently retains that position.

The Cultural Affairs Department had a program aimed at developing vacant building within the City of Chicago for artist and art groups. The Swiss Products Building at 1801 South Indiana, Chicago, Illinois was a potential building identified by the Cultural Affairs Department for development into an art building. After WEISBERG and [REDACTED] a City of Chicago employee, visited the Swiss Products Building, WEISBERG noticed a VIETNAM VETERANS ART GROUP (VVAG) sign posted at the 1727 South Indiana Building, Chicago Illinois. The 1727 South Indiana building [REDACTED] provided the VVAG exhibit space and renovations free of charge to the VVAG group. WEISBERG recalled reading an article about the VVAG in the newspaper just prior the her visit to the VVAG art exhibit.

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WEISBERG met [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at her first visit to the VVAG. WEISBERG was informed by the VVAG that it needed to move out the 1727 South Indiana building since [REDACTED] was about to convert the exhibit space into its intended loft living space. WEISBERG was very impressed with the VVAG art exhibit and told Mayor RICHARD M. DALEY about it. WEISBERG thought DALEY could help the VVAG. MAYOR DALEY and WEISBURG visited the VVAG and again was impressed with the exhibit. WEISBERG had to leave the VVAG exhibit before DALEY to attend a planned engagement. The day after they visited the VVAG WEISBURG heard Mayor DALEY gave the Swiss Products Building to the VVAG. WEISBERG told Mayor DALEY that the VVAG had no money and with the donated building the VVAG needed money for operations. The City of Chicago subsequently donated one million

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b7cInvestigation on 12/6/01 at Chicago, IllinoisFile # 46H-CG-112763Date dictated 01/11/2002 by SA [REDACTED] drw DRWb6
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Continuation of FD-302 of Lois Weisberg, On 12/6/01, Page 2

dollars to the VVAG for renovation of the 1801 South Indiana Building. The rehabilitation of the building was planned to be completed before the 1996 Democratic National Convention.

WEISBERG stated because the VVAG had no money for operations, she believed that everyone involved in the VVAG was a volunteer, including [redacted] her entire family, [redacted] and the VVAG board. WEISBURG stated not until the second one million-dollar grant from the Federal Government was received by the Museum that an operating budget including salaries would be available. Before the one million-dollar Federal Grant there was no money for the VVAG to have an operating budget. The VVAG did receive private donations before the Federal Government grant but WEISBURG did not know what the VVAG did with those funds. WEISBURG contacted Illinois Congressman YATES to help the VVAG obtain Federal Grant money. It was through YATES's effort the VVAG received a one-million dollar grant from the Federal Government in 1998. WEISBERG stated the Federal Grant was treated as reimbursement for the renovation of the 1801 South Indiana building and therefore the Federal Grant was available for operations of the VVAG. The Federal Grant was used for VVAG overhead costs and operating expenses. The Grant was to pay for VVAG heat, light, and staff expenses similar to other museums. Before the Federal Grant WEISBERG would receive calls from [redacted] stating the VVAG had no money to pay its bills. WEISBERG stated she was under the impression that [redacted] was not taking a salary before the 1998 Federal Grant, because [redacted] told her she did not receive a salary as the Executive Director of the VVAG.

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The interviewing agent showed WEISBERG [redacted]

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WEISBERG was then shown [redacted]

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City of Chicago employee [redacted] was responsible for the day-to-day contract with the VVAG / [redacted] knowledge about VVAG activities. [redacted] may have specific

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Continuation of FD-302 of Lois Weisberg, On 12/6/01, Page 3

WEISBERG was then shown [REDACTED]

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WEISBERG was never informed by [REDACTED] or anyone else about retroactive salary paid to [REDACTED]. WEISBERG stated [REDACTED] incurred VVAG expenses using her personal credit cards and thought that possibly in the back of her mind she thought she should be reimbursed for those expenses. WEISBERG stated [REDACTED] felt she be reimbursed for her expenses; [REDACTED] felt she owned the VVAG.

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[REDACTED] Prior to the Museum's receipt of the Federal Grant, [REDACTED] would telephone WEISBERG and told her the Museum would have to close since it was out of money. The Chicago Cultural Affairs Department lent the VVAG approximately \$30,000 for operation expenses. WEISBERG hoped the VVAG would repay its Cultural Affairs Department loan but it did not.

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WEISBERG made it known to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] that the Federal Grant could not be used to pay for expenses already incurred by the VVAG. The Federal Grant could only be used for the operations of the VVAG and investment going forward. WEISBERG stated she reenforced her statements to [REDACTED] by telling [REDACTED] that the Federal Grant was to be only used for VVAG operations and investment.

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WEISBERG was then shown [REDACTED]

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Per [Signature]	

(time)

[REDACTED]

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United Airlines paid for KORAN'S airfare from Frankfort to Chicago. The Cultural Affairs budget paid for the airfare from Prague to Frankfort and for all his expenses while in Chicago.

KORAN has previously been in Chicago. Some time ago, KORAN attended a writer's workshop in Iowa. He is good friends with the former American Ambassador to Prague. (He currently is with the Metropolitan Museum in New York.)

KORAN is a leading translator in Prague. His English is excellent. He recently accompanied VACLAV HAVEL, (leader of CSSR) on his trip to New York.

WEISBERG stated that 48 U.S. cities wanted Prague to be a sister city, but KORAN chose Chicago, and on June 19, 1990, KORAN and Chicago MAYOR RICHARD M. DALEY signed a Sister Cities Declaration.

[REDACTED] advised that a limo picked up KORAN at the airport on June 16, 1990, and she escorted him everywhere.

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KORAN is a member of the CIVIC FORUM Political Party in CSSR. He was appointed by HAVEL to be the Mayor of Prague, and he hopes to be elected in the next mayoral election in Prague.

[REDACTED] advised that KORAN was "on the go" from morning until night having press conferences and attending economic development meetings. He met with members of a large law firm. He attended the U.S. Conference of Mayors and was a speaker on June 19, 1990.

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[REDACTED] advised that KORAN was in Chicago from June 16, 1990 from June 21, 1990. He did not travel to any other city while in the U.S. flying directly from Frankfort. He stayed at the Chicago Hilton and Towers Hotel. His itinerary follows:

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On June 16, 1990, he arrived at Ohare airport at 1:55 p.m. He checked in his hotel and then attended the Conference of Mayors Reception.

On June 17, 1990, he attended the Printer's Row Book Fair and a Jewish Folk Arts Festival. He attended a private reception and then a Greek party.

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[REDACTED]

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On June 18, 1990, he participated in the Mayor's Conference all day and then attended a production at the GOODMAN THEATRE entitled the GOSPEL AT COLONUS.

On June 19, 1990, he participated in the Conference all day and then visited the Museum of Science and Industry Ethnic Food Festival.

On June 20, 1990, he held press conferences and other meetings described previously. He attended a production of THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR at the BLACKSTONE THEATRE.

On June 21, 1990, KORAN met with MAYOR DALEY, attended a luncheon and departed Ohare at 5 p.m.

[REDACTED] and WEISBERG described KORAN as a writer/photographer who is bright, warm and friendly. He (and others in CSSR) had been planning for a change in the Czech Government, but they never expected it to happen as quickly as it did. He is optimistic about the change in his Government, but knows it will be a difficult road. He possibly is divorced and has one child. (This area of his public life was never discussed). He is anxious for Chicago and Prague to have a continuing relationship. He was open and willing to talk on almost any subject. He told [REDACTED] and WEISBERG that he has so many appearances, etc., in Prague that he has two official cars and two chauffeurs.

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[REDACTED] and WEISBERG advised that his visit was very successful.

As no investigation remains, this matter is closed.

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FD-36 (Rev. 11-17-88)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 9/6/91

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO [REDACTED] (C)

~~SECRET~~

SUBJECT : [REDACTED]

OO: CG

~~THIS ENTIRE COMMUNICATION CLASSIFIED SECRET.~~

RE [REDACTED]

Captioned matter was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] LOIS WEISBERG, Director, Department of
Cultural Affairs, City of Chicago, 174 West Randolph Street,
Chicago, Illinois. [REDACTED]

3-Bureau
(1-CI-3A)
② Chicago
THM/s [REDACTED]
(5)

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Declassify on OADR

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9-12-91
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Approved: _____

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(Number) (Time)

Per _____

[REDACTED]

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On August 27, 1991, [REDACTED] (PROTECT),

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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It should be noted that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (PROTECT) advised that the Commissioner,
Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Chicago had no record

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[REDACTED]

As no further investigation remains, this
investigation is closed.

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TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 9/10/91

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO [REDACTED] (C)

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SUBJECT : [REDACTED]

OO: Chicago

~~THIS ENTIRE COMMUNICATION CLASSIFIED SECRET.~~

RE [REDACTED]

Captioned matter was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the City of Chicago, 174 West Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois. It should be noted that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] City of Chicago, 174 West Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois. For the information of the Bureau, 174 West Randolph is a small, five story office building. The Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Chicago, occupies the entire building.

3-Bureau
(1-CI-3A)

2-Chicago
THM/s (1)
(5)

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Declassify on OADR

OSM
CLOSE ON THIS

9-12-91
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Approved: [REDACTED]

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(Number) (Time)

Per [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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On August 27, 1991, [REDACTED] (PROTECT),

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] LOIS WEISBERG, Commissioner, Department
of Public Affairs, City of Chicago, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Based on the information given [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] As no further
investigation remains, this investigation is closed.

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